

Things To Do Within 100 Miles of Barstow

Courtesy of Route 66 Mother Road Museum, Barstow CA

Permission to re-print must be secured in writing from the author.

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Approx. Distance from Mother Road Museum</u>	<u>Websites & Additional Info</u> <i>Websites may not be updated regularly. Call ahead for current information.</i>
1	<u>Afton Canyon Natural Area</u> Bureau of Land Management 2601 Barstow Road Barstow, CA 92311 (760) -252-6000	The Mojave River flows above ground in the Afton Canyon area. Sometimes called the "Grand Canyon of the Mojave," it is considered a good spot for bird and wildlife viewing. Kit Carson, Jedediah Smith, & John Charles Fremont are some of the early western explorers who passed through the area. The historic Mojave Road is nearby—high clearance, 4WD needed for the Mojave Road. <i>This is a rather remote area. Exercise caution & notify someone of your plans before you go & when you expect to return.</i>	35 miles	Check with the Bureau of Land Management office in Barstow for up-to-date info. https://www.blm.gov/visit/afton-canyon <i>Road conditions can change from deep sand in summer to mud and washed-out sections after rain. Avoid canyons during thunderstorms due to possible violent flash floods. Plan accordingly, as no food, water or gasoline may be available for miles. Always notify someone of your plans. Cell phones do not always work in remote areas.</i>
2	<u>Amboy, CA</u> Historic Route 66 • <u>Amboy Crater</u> • <u>Roy's Café</u>	<u>Amboy Crater</u> is a cinder cone from an ancient volcano. The Crater is on BLM land, & has a graded dirt road leading to the base of the crater. Picnic tables and vault toilets are available. A hiking trail leads to top of crater. Best times to view: during spring wildflower bloom, early morning, or late afternoon. <i>Hiking this crater in the summer is dangerous & can be deadly due to extremely high temperatures & very low humidity. Bring plenty of water, & drink plenty of it, no matter what time of year you hike this trail.</i> Historic Roy's Café is a 1940s café, 1930s motel, and gas station on historic Route 66. Numerous photo shoots have been done in Amboy.	80 miles	For trail & road conditions: Bureau of Land Management office in Barstow. 2601 Barstow Rd., Barstow CA 92311 Phone: (760)-252-6000 https://www.blm.gov/visit/amboy-crater --OR-- Bureau of Land Management Needles Field Office 1303 South U.S. Highway 95 Needles, CA 92363 Phone: 760-326-7000 https://www.blm.gov/visit/amboy-crater <i>Services are limited in Amboy. Plan accordingly for desert conditions; no food, water, or gasoline may be available for miles. Cell phones may not always work. Notify someone of your plans & when you expect to return.</i>
3	<u>Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve</u> <u>California State Park</u> 15101 Lancaster Road (15 miles west of Route 14) Lancaster, CA 93536 (661)-724-1180	This 1,745-acre reserve, 15 miles west of Lancaster, CA, is considered the state's most consistent poppy-bearing land. Owl's clover, lupine, goldfield, cream cups, and coreopsis wildflowers mingle with the poppies, the California state flower.	115 miles	Wildflowers bloom March through May. Peak blooming is usually in mid-April. Call the Poppy Reserve Wildflower Hotline or check the California State Parks website for updates, as some years there is not enough precipitation for a flower bloom. https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=627 Poppy Reserve Wildflower Hotline: (661)-724-1180
4	<u>Bagdad Café</u> 46548 National Trails Hwy Newberry Springs, CA 92365	Historic Route 66 café, (formerly called the Sidewinder Café). It is very popular with European tourists. Be sure to sign their guest book. It was the inspiration & setting of the film <u>Bagdad Café</u> .	22 miles	Bagdad Café is located in Newberry Springs. A few miles to the east, is where the original town of Bagdad once stood. Nothing remains of the town today.
5	<u>Big Bear Discovery Center</u> 40971 North Shore Drive (Highway 38) Fawnskin, CA 92333 (909)-382- 2790	The Big Bear Discovery Center has information on hiking, biking, camping, & maps of forest roads & off-highway vehicle adventures in the San Bernardino Mountains and National Forest. It also has rotating exhibits on wildflowers, wildlife, and history. There are views of the lake and mountains from the observation deck.	80 miles	Call or check San Bernardino National Forest website for Visitor Center hours. http://mountainsfoundation.org/programs/discovery-center
6	<u>Borax Visitor Center</u> U.S. Borax Rio Tinto 14486 Borax Road Boron, CA 93516 Visitor Center: (760)-762-7588	Borax deposits were discovered in Boron CA in 1925. The Visitor Center for the Rio Tinto Borax Mine overlooks the largest open-pit mine in California. It contains one of the biggest and richest deposits of borax on earth, and supplies nearly half the world's demand for refined borates. The Borax Visitor Center tells the story of borax & the local community. It also has: historical & geological exhibits, photo ops, video theater, 20 Mule Team replica, gift shop & borax souvenirs.	45 miles	Hours: Seven days a week from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, excluding major holidays & weather permitting. Admission Free, but "accepts donations to support local community organizations. Parking is also free & accessible to recreational vehicles." Email: visitor.center@riotinto.com or call (760) 762-7588. DIRECTIONS: From Route 58, exit at Borax Road. Follow Borax Road to the main gate. https://www.borax.com/borax-operations/borax-visitor-center

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7	<u>Elmer Long's Bottle Tree Forest</u> 24266 National Old Trails Highway (Route 66) Oro Grande, CA	Elmer Long had been collecting bottles in the desert since childhood, and turned them into an eclectic forest of bottle trees. Elmer & his bottle forest have been on HGTV. Elmer passed away June 22, 2019. His <u>bottle tree ranch is currently open</u> . The family hopes to keep it open in the future. But always check the link to see.	20 miles (Approx.)	Approximately 9 miles north of Victorville between Oro Grande and Helendale/Silver Lakes on National Old Trails Highway (Rte 66). <i>This is a private residence. Please be respectful. If the gate is locked, please only take photos through the fence.</i> https://www.facebook.com/ElmersBottleTreeRanch/
8	<u>Calico Ghost Town</u> 36600 Ghost Town Rd. P.O. Box 638 Yermo, CA 92398 800-TO-CALICO (800-862-2542)	Calico is a former silver mining town, founded in 1881, and preserved by Walter Knott, of Knott's Berry Farm. It is a San Bernardino County Park. A good portion of the town is original, and the rest is reconstructed.	17 miles	https://cms.sbcounty.gov/parks/Parks/CalicoGhostTown.aspx Northeast of Barstow. From I-15, Exit at Ghost Town Road. Campground, camping trails & bunkhouse.
9	<u>California Route 66 Museum</u> 16825 South D Street Victorville, CA 92395 (760)-951-0436	Historical exhibits, contemporary gallery, research library, travel information and sizeable gift shop full of Route 66 merchandise, DVDs & books about historic Route 66.	32 miles	Hours: Thursday to Monday 10 am – 4 pm Sunday: 11 am – 3 pm. Staffed by Volunteers. Tuesday & Wednesday CLOSED or by appointment Free Admission. Donations are gratefully accepted. Groups of 20 or more, please call in advance to notify us your group plans to visit the museum. A deposit may be required. Call 760-951-0436 or email for further information: cart66musm@gmail.com . http://www.califrt66museum.org/
10	<u>Historic Daggett</u> Daggett, CA 92327	The National Old Trails Highway (Route 66) goes through this historic Mojave Desert town. Daggett was once home to naturalist John Muir's daughter. Death Valley Scotty and "Borax" Smith were regular visitors to the (remains) Stone Hotel located on Santa Fe Street.	10 miles	<i>Most historic buildings are privately owned and not open to the public. Please respect private property.</i> For a printable driving tour and map, go to: http://www.route66museum.org/id8.html
11	<u>Desert Discovery Center</u> 831 Barstow Road Barstow, CA 92311 (760) – 252-6060	Some of the displays include: extinct animal tracks, Old Woman Meteorite, paleontology & geology, & a native plant & animal habitat. The Desert Discovery Center is partnered with the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Barstow Unified School District, Barstow Community College, Mojave River Valley Museum, and more.	1 mile	Hours: Tuesday – Saturday 11 am – 4 pm Free Admission http://desertdc.com/
12	<u>Devil's Punchbowl L.A. County Park</u> 28000 Devil's Punchbowl Rd Pearblossom, CA 93553	Devil's Punchbowl is a 1,310-acre park, with unusual rock formations, one mile from the San Andreas fault. Hiking, geology walks, reptile programs, and a small nature center.	70 miles	Park Hours: Sunrise to Sunset for picnicking & hiking Visitor Center: Tues-Sun; 9 am – 5 pm http://www.devils-punchbowl.com/
13	<u>The Goffs Schoolhouse</u> 37198 Lanfair Road - G15 Essex, California 92332 Phone (760) -733-4482	In 1998, The Mojave Desert Heritage & Cultural Association restored the one-room mission style schoolhouse to its original configuration, and it is on the National Register of Historic Places. The schoolhouse is one of a few remaining structures in the community of Goffs on the original 1926 alignment of Route 66.	121 miles	The Goffs Schoolhouse is located near the intersection of Goffs and Lanfair Road. It is <u>open by appointment only</u> . Hosted by the Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association. For additional information: http://www.mdhca.org/ Email info@mdhca.org Or call (760) -733-4482 to schedule an appt.
14	<u>NASA Goldstone Visitor Center</u> 681 North First Avenue Barstow, CA 92311 (760)- 255-8688	Goldstone Deep Space Network is one of 3 complexes in the world that provide the ability to communicate with spacecraft orbiting the earth, but also farther into our solar system. There are 2 other DSN sites in the world besides Goldstone: near Madrid Spain & Canberra Australia. Goldstone visitor center has displays & photos about their current missions.	35 miles	Monday-Friday: 9 am -4 pm. Saturday 10 am-2 pm. Admission: Free Goldstone is not an observatory with optical telescopes. Their work is in two-way robotic spacecraft communication & radio astronomy. More information: https://www.gdscc.nasa.gov/?page_id=35

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15	<u>Holcomb Valley Gold Road</u> Begin at: Big Bear Discovery Center 40971 North Shore Drive (Highway 38) Fawnskin, CA 92333 (909)-382- 2790	A 3-4 hour, 12-mile historical driving tour on dirt roads, takes you past remains of 1860s mining camps, including a Hangman’s tree, the Metzger mine, and the spot where the town of Belleville stood.	80 miles	Map available at Discovery Center. You will also need an Adventure Pass. Check with the staff on road conditions, as certain times of the year may require high-clearance, 4WD. http://www.bigbeardiscoverycenter.com/ Hours: Thursday - Monday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm Closed Tuesday & Wednesday
16	<u>The Hesperia Zoo</u> 19038 Willow Street, Hesperia, CA 92345 (760) 948-9430	Established by Stephanie Taunton in 2001, The Hesperia Zoo is home to native, rare & endangered species from 6 continents. The zoo is an ever growing project to educate visitors on conservation. Guided tours are available by reservation only.	45 miles	http://www.thehesperiazoo.com/about-us/
17	<u>Joshua Tree National Park</u>	Two deserts meet in this park; the lower Colorado Desert and the higher Mojave Desert. Joshua Tree became a national monument in 1936 and a national park in 1994. Rock climbing, camping and stargazing are popular activities.	128 miles	Visitor centers are <u>usually</u> open daily, 8 am – 4 pm. Call or check website for current hours. Tours of the Keys Ranch are by reservation only. Tickets are available: Recreation.gov Or Call 877-444-6777 to book tours. Additional info: https://www.nps.gov/jotr/index.htm
18	<u>Kelso Depot Mojave National Preserve</u> Kelso, CA	Kelso Depot is an historic railroad depot, opened in 1924 by the Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad (now Union Pacific) as a combination depot, employees boarding and rooming house, and restaurant for employees and passengers. The depot has been restored and is now the information center for the Mojave National Preserve. It houses a museum, historically furnished rooms, a theater, and bookstore.	103 miles	Restrooms and water are available at Kelso Depot. <u>Gasoline is not available.</u> Hours: Thurs-Monday 10-5, Closed Christmas Day. Phone: (760)-252-6108. http://www.nps.gov/moja/planyourvisit/visitorcenters.htm
19	<u>Kern County Museum</u> Kern County Museum 3801 Chester Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93301 (661) 437-3330	The Kern County Museum is on a 16-acre site north of downtown Bakersfield. The museum features historic exhibits, many in relocated structures, and an award winning hands-on oil exhibition, Black Gold: The Oil Experience.	129 miles	Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-4 pm, Sunday 12 – 4 pm Occasionally closed for special or private events. Check website calendar for info. Admission. https://kerncountymuseum.org/
20	<u>Las Vegas Nevada</u>	Gambling, casinos, restaurants, adult entertainment.	150 miles	
21	<u>Mitchell Caverns</u> Essex, CA	Mitchell Caverns is a California State Park located within the Providence Mountains State Recreation Area, which is located within The Mojave National Preserve.	105 miles	http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=615 <i>All tours of Mitchell Caverns are by reservation only.</i> (760)-928-2586
22	<u>Mojave National Preserve</u> Kelso, CA	Kelso Depot, that is now the information center for the National Preserve, is a restored railroad depot in the middle of the Mojave National Preserve. It contains a museum, historically furnished rooms, a theater, and bookstore. Restrooms and water are available at Kelso Depot. <u>Gasoline is not available.</u>	103 miles to Kelso	<i>Plan accordingly for desolate areas, as no food, water or gasoline may be available for miles. Always notify someone of your plans. Cell phones don't always work in remote areas.</i> Hours: Thurs-Monday 10-5, Closed Christmas Day. Phone: (760)-252-6108. http://www.nps.gov/moja/planyourvisit/visitorcenters.htm
23	<u>Mojave River Valley Museum</u> 270 E. Virginia Way Barstow, CA 92311 (760) 256-5452	The museum has numerous displays and exhibits on the history of the Mojave River Valley from the arrival of Father Garces in 1776 through pathfinders, pioneers, miners, railroads and the space program. The museum also has an archive of local area newspapers dating back to 1911, and an extensive photo collection containing over 20,000 photos.	1.5 miles	Open every day 11 am to 4 pm, except holidays. Free Admission http://mojaverivervalleymuseum.org/ Phone: 760-256-5452

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24	<u>Mormon Rocks</u> Cajon Junction, CA (From the junction of I-15 & Highway 138, head west.)	The Cajon (“Box”) Pass is where the San Gabriel and the San Bernardino Mountain ranges overlap. Mormon pioneers traveled through this area in the 1850s looking for a smoother route from the Mojave Desert to the San Bernardino Valley. The Rocks or hogbacks stand above the floor of the Cajon Wash. A 1/2-mile nature trail of gradual switchbacks goes through manzanita, yucca, chamise (greasewood), & sage.	53 miles	Views from the nature trail include Cajon Summit area, Cleghorn Ridge to the east, Ralston Peak to the southeast, Upper Lytle Creek Divide and Cucamonga Wilderness to the southwest, and Baldy Mesa is north beyond the Mormon Rocks. U. S. Forest Service http://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/sbnf/recreation/hiking/recarea/?recid=26543&actid=50
25	<u>Off Highway Vehicle Areas</u> Bureau of Land Management 2601 Barstow Road Barstow, CA 92311 (760) -252-6000	<u>Off Highway Vehicle Areas</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stoddard Valley • Johnson Valley • El Mirage • Dumont Dunes The <u>Route 66 Mother Road Museum</u> in Barstow has numerous books for sale in its gift shop on areas to explore such as abandoned town sites, canyons, rock formations, etc	Various	Bureau of Land Management for current conditions. <i>Plan accordingly for desolate areas, as no food, water or gasoline may be available for miles. Always notify someone of your plans. Cell phones don't always work in remote areas.</i> https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/recreation-activities/california
26	<u>The Outlets at Barstow</u> 2796 Tanger Way Barstow, CA 92311	Outlet shopping 7 miles from the <u>Route 66 Mother Road Museum</u> .	7 miles	I-15 at Lenwood Road or Outlet Center Drive
27	<u>Peggy Sue’s Nifty Fifties Diner</u> 35654 Yermo Road Yermo, CA 92398 (760) 254-3370	50s style diner serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. Features include soda fountain, pizza parlor, burgers, steaks, homemade chili & soups, desserts, old fashion candy, and 50s music. Open daily: 6 am – 10 pm	8 miles	I-15 at Ghost Town Road Exit With advance notice, Peggy Sue’s easily accommodates large groups. Call: (760) 254-3370 Email: info@peggysuesdiner.com http://www.peggysuesdiner.com/
28	<u>Petroglyphs Tour on China Lake Naval Weapons Base</u> <i>Tours are set up with:</i> <u>Maturango Museum</u> 100 E. Las Flores Ave. Ridgecrest, CA 93555	The Maturango Museum in Ridgecrest has docent-led hikes into a canyon on the China Lake Naval Weapons Base. The canyons on the naval base are believed to contain the largest concentration of Petroglyphs in the western hemisphere. The Navy strictly limits access to the Little Petroglyph Canyon. Tours are offered only through the Maturango Museum. (760) 375-6900	83 miles	Maturango Museum Hours: 10-5 every day, except major holidays. (760) 375-6900 http://www.maturango.org/ The Petroglyphs tour must be arranged at least 14 days in advance so the Navy can verify citizenship.
29	<u>Rainbow Basin National Natural Landmark</u> 8 miles north of Barstow, California, off Irwin Road (not Fort Irwin Road). The main access route is Fossil Bed Road.	Rainbow Basin, a national natural landmark managed by the Bureau of Land Management, is an area of badlands that folded and faulted leaving colored rock strata that eroded to create small ravines & pinnacles. Great time to view: spring when wildflowers & cactus are in bloom, and early morning or late afternoon. <i>Exercise caution & notify someone of your plans before you go & when you expect to return.</i>	8 miles	Graded dirt road leads to the campground with picnic tables & fire rings, & vault toilets. Bring drinking water with you. A 4-wheel drive or high-clearance vehicle is recommended on Fossil Canyon Loop Road—it is a one-way, 4-mile narrow dirt road. More Info: Bureau of Land Management 2601 Barstow Road, Barstow, CA 92311 (760)-252-6000, BLM website: http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/barstow/basin.html
30	<u>Rand Mining District</u> Randsburg, CA	The living ghost town of Randsburg is located in the Rand Mining District, a gold & silver mining area in the Mojave Desert. Remains of mining operations are everywhere. There are also antique shops, and a general store.	62 miles	The Randsburg General Store, 35, Butte Ave, has a 1930s soda fountain & serves breakfast & lunch. Note: hours may be limited. Phone: 760-374-2143 https://randsburggeneralstore.com/findus.html <i>Exercise Caution – around old mining operations-- they can be dangerous.</i>
31	<u>Route 66 Mother Road Museum</u> In the Historic Harvey House 681 N. First Avenue Barstow, CA. 92311 (760)-255-1890	The Route 66 Mother Road Museum is located in the historic Harvey House, a 1911 hotel, restaurant, and train depot. Route 66 is ½ mile from the museum. The Museum’s gift shop carries an extensive number of books and Route 66 items.	***	Staffed by volunteers. Free Admission. Donations greatly appreciated A deposit may be required for groups of 15 or more. Please call or email in advance for large groups. barstowmuseum@yahoo.com Hours: Friday & Saturday 10 am-4 pm. Sunday 11-4 http://www.route66museum.org/

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32	<u>Santa Monica Pier</u> The end of Route 66 at the Pacific Ocean	In 1935, the western terminus of Route 66 was at Lincoln & Olympic in Santa Monica. Now there is a sign at the Santa Monica Pier. Pier activities include beach, an aquarium, arcade, historic carousel, restaurants, gift shops, & amusement park.	132 miles	http://www.santamonicapier.org/
33	<u>Skyline Drive In</u> 31175 Highway 58 Barstow, CA 92311 (760) – 256-3333	Drive In movie theater. Opened in 1966 Closed in 1987 Reopened in 1996 Added second screen in 2000	3 miles	Call (760)-256-3333 for show times. OR https://www.facebook.com/Skylinedriveinbarstowca/ Closes in winter months.
34	<u>Tehachapi Loop</u> Keene, CA Best viewing locations are along Woodford-Tehachapi Road	The Tehachapi Loop, a 19 th Century engineering achievement, is 8 miles west of Tehachapi near Route 58. The rugged Tehachapi Mountains were in the way of a route between Bakersfield and Los Angeles. At the time, the maximum grade permitted was 2.2%. An entry tunnel was built, and the rail track was laid in a loop. Because modern freight trains are often more than a mile long, the locomotive will pass over the final cars in its own train. Passenger train service through the Loop was discontinued in 1971; only freight trains travel it now.	100 miles	This website explains The Loop. http://www.tehachapi.com/v-int.php#loop To view trains traveling through the Loop: From Route 58 in Keene, follow sign pointing to Tehachapi Loop. You will pass "La Paz," the burial site of Cesar Chavez, and headquarters of the United Farm Workers Union. The Loop is approx 3 miles from Keene on the paved road. There is a monument along the road overlooking the Loop. "Freight schedules are not predictable, and there is no guarantee of railroad traffic frequency."
35	<u>Trona Pinnacles National Natural Landmark</u> 20 miles east of Ridgecrest CA 300 South Richmond Road, Ridgecrest, CA 93555 (760) -384-5400	More than 500 tufa (calcium carbonate) spires, some as high as 140 feet, rise from the bed of the Searles Dry Lake basin. The Trona Pinnacles have been seen in a number of commercials, films, and still-photo shoots. One of the more famous movies featuring the Pinnacles was <u>Star Trek: The Final Frontier</u> .	96 miles	From the BLM website: "The Trona Pinnacles are located approximately 20.0 miles east of Ridgecrest. Access to the site is from a BLM dirt road (RM143) that leaves SR 178, about 7.7 miles east of the intersection of SR 178 and the Trona-Red Mountain Road. The 5.0-mile long dirt road from SR 178 to the Pinnacles is usually accessible to 2-wheel drive vehicles, however, the road may be closed during the winter months after a heavy rain." Current road conditions, contact the BLM office in Ridgecrest. https://www.blm.gov/visit/trona-pinnacles
36	<u>Twenty Mule Team Museum</u> 26962 Twenty Mule Team Rd Boron, CA 93516 (760)-762-5810	Located in a renovated and enlarged house that once stood near a borax mine campsite. The museum also has displays on mining, and what life was like in the 1930s in the Mojave desert town of Boron. Parts of the movie <u>Erin Brockovich</u> were filmed in Boron.	40 miles	Open seven days a week: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. (Call to arrange special museum hours for groups of 10 or more.) Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day. http://20muleteammuseum.com/
37	<u>Victor Valley Museum & Art Gallery</u> 11873 Apple Valley Road Apple Valley, CA 92307 (760) – 240-2111	Collections include farm and ranch implements, mounted wildlife, George Air Force Base displays and exhibits regarding cultural histories of the Victor Valley.	40 miles	Wednesday - Saturday: 10 am – 4 pm Sunday: 1 pm – 4 pm. Closed Monday & Tuesday (760) – 240-2111 Check their facebook page for calendar of special events and shows. http://www.facebook.com/pages/Victor-Valley-Museum/115955987469
38	<u>Western America Railroad Museum (W.A.R.M.)</u> 685 N. First Street Barstow, CA 92311 (760)-256-WARM	"The museum collects preserves and shares the history of railroading in the Pacific Southwest, and provides educational forums with interpretive and historical displays that focus on both Railroad History and the development of Railroad Technology."	Next door to Rte 66 Mother Road Museum	Staffed by volunteers. Friday 11 am-3pm, Saturday & Sunday: 11 am – 4 pm http://www.barstowrailmuseum.org/index.html